

Appl. No. 10/811,184
Amdt. dated October 20, 2005
Reply to Office action of July 20, 2005

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An externally activated inline control valve comprising:

a valve housing connected to a flow line having an inlet through which materials enter the valve from a the flow line and an outlet through which material leave the valve and re-enter the flow line;

a plug member contained in the valve housing and positioned in a the valve housing such that said plug is in the path of materials traveling through the flow line and through into the housing, said plug positioned in the housing such that said plug movement is in a direction parallel to the direction of fluid through the flowline; and

an activation mechanism attached to said plug member to control the movement of said plug member within the valve housing, movement of the plug affecting the rate of flow of materials passing through the valve, said activation mechanism having a component that is positioned outside said valve housing and said activation mechanism further comprises: a rack gear attached to said plug; a pinion arm that engages the rack gear; and a shaft connected to the pinion arm to facilitate rotation of the pinion arm.

Claim 2 (Original) The externally activated inline control valve as described in claim 1 wherein said housing comprises a one-piece design.

Claim 3 (Original) The externally activated inline control valve as described in claim 1 further comprising a set of guide members to further control movement of said plug within said valve housing.

Claim 4 (Original) The externally activated inline control valve as described in claim 3 wherein the set of guide members comprise a cylindrical guide.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The externally activated inline control valve as described in claim 1 wherein said pinion arm further comprises a set of teeth for engaging said rack gear.

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Claim 7 (Original) The externally activated inline control valve as described in claim 6 where said rack gear further comprises a set of teeth used to engage said teeth of said pinion arm.

Claim 8 (Original) The externally activated inline control valve as described in claim 7 wherein said shaft is perpendicularly attached to the rotary pinion arm.

Claim 9 (Original) The externally activated inline control valve as described in claim 8 wherein said shaft extends outside the valve housing to facilitate use of the shaft by a valve operator to control the movement of said plug housed in the valve housing.